



# OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH OPERATION NORTHERN WATCH



# HERITAGE DISPLAY

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**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL.**  
— The Air Force Communications Agency is preparing an Operation Northern/Southern Watch Heritage display for the Ludwig Heritage Hall, located in the Atrium of Bldg. 1700 here.

A featured item is an Iraqi “camel tongue” colonel rank that was passed through more than 30 communications officers (many of whom are now our senior leaders) during the watch operations.

The agency is accepting memorabilia and artifacts from OSW and ONW. These items will become property of the Air Force Museum and will be on exhibit in the LHH. When submitting items, the agency will need to know the approximate size, weight, and significance of the items.

After Operation Desert Storm in 1990, Operation Northern Watch enforced a no-fly zone north of Iraq’s 36th parallel to protect Kurdish refugees from Saddam Hussein’s forces.

Operation Southern Watch was established to keep Saddam Hussein’s air forces from flying bombing and strafing attacks against the Shiite Muslims in Southern Iraq. Coalition forces enforced a no-fly zone south of Iraq’s 32nd parallel.

When coalition forces began surveillance operations in August 1992, U.S. Central Command activated the Joint

Task Force-Southwest Asia as the command and control unit for coalition forces monitoring the no-fly zone. The first OSW sortie flew less than 24 hours later.

**During these operations, U.S. communications and information experts organized, refined, and built the most extensive tactical command and control network in history.**

U.S.-led forces now communicate more efficiently resulting in better coordination and effective warfighting.

Among the locations American troops were deployed were King Abdul Aziz and Prince Sultan Air Bases in Saudi Arabia.

Comm and info troops provided voice and data capabilities throughout the area of responsibility and the continental United States.

After terrorists bombed Khobar Towers in Dhahran in June 1996, many of the troops

were relocated to PSAB, where they continued to provide their much needed expertise and support.

After more than 36,000 sorties, the final operational sortie was flown March 17, 2003. Lt. Gen. Charles F. Wald, U.S. European Command deputy commander, inactivated ONW May 1. General Wald had been the first U.S. officer on the ground in 1991 in support of Operation Provide Comfort I.

After a grand total of 286,398 sorties, OSW quietly closed March 19, 2003.



To donate items for the exhibit, contact  
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